

THE NEW PLAYS

"The Unborn"
Harrowing,
but Well Acted.

By CHARLES DARTON.

FRANKLY a propagandist's protest against defective children, with more than a hint that marriage should not carry with it either the moral or legal obligation of parentage where there is a family taint, "The Unborn" stops at nothing to harrow our souls with the troubles of coming generations.

Obviously, Beulah Poynter has made out an extreme case to suit the purpose of a play that has all the horror of Ibsen's "Ghosts" and the frankness of a talk with the family doctor. In fact, the play is too talkative to be altogether dramatic, though it is interesting at times and

treats a vital question with unmitigated sincerity. Given under the auspices of the Medical Review of Reviews, it may draw so-called special audiences to the Princess Theatre, but it is not likely to attract playgoers generally.

At the outset Miss Poynter is asking a great deal in expecting an audience to take seriously the young bride who seems too stupid to realize the dangers of heredity. Just back from her honeymoon she is already a confirmed tippler with a decanter of wine always at her elbow. It is because of this habit and the fact that her father died in an asylum after long indulgence in drink that she is opposed to motherhood. But twenty years later she is seen as the mother of a pampered nervous wreck whose inherited weakness is revealed in violent outbursts that culminate in an epileptic convulsion when the girl intends to marry returns from college. His fiendish delight in burning the paw of a little dog and a later attempt to choke the girl he loves have a meaning that the mother can readily understand. After this last act of cruelty the youth shoots himself and the play ends.

Compensation for the horrors of the second and third acts is to be found in Emily Wellman's sensitive and appealing portrayal of the devoted and terror-haunted mother and in the really remarkable acting of Everett Butterfield as the half-mad son. As the bride of the opening act, Miss Wellman lacks charm, but once her hair is touched with gray she becomes as real and as pitiable as Mrs. Alving of Mary Shaw in "Ghosts." Her hysterical suffering and soul-shattering confession are almost too trying to watch. She is given too much to smiling in the second act, but she never fails to suggest the mother's self-sacrificing, tender love for the doomed boy. In shivering and shivering at the mother's touch and in his unreasonable, passionate fits of rage, Everett Butterfield makes the boy an extraordinary study in degeneracy. Here is a young actor of great promise.

SHIP BILL CONFERENCE.

New Measure to Provide U. S. Control and Naval Reserve.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The new Administration Shipping Bill, which would create a board to control deep water traffic and provide for construction of merchant vessels designed for use as naval auxiliaries, was the subject of a conference last night attended by Secretaries McAdoo and Redfield, Senator Fletcher and Representative Alexander, Chairman of the Congressional Merchant Marine Committee, Senator Thurman of the Department of Commerce, and Commandant Berthoff of the Coast Guard. Senator Alexander had seen the draft prepared by the two Cabinet officers and the conference was called largely for the purpose of explaining to them the differences between the present bill and the one which was defeated in the Senate last year. Another conference will be held probably next week. Secretary McAdoo will see President Wilson to-morrow and it is believed that he will submit an outline of the new bill.

Two of the New Skating Costumes Designed To Fit the Vogue Which Has Swept the City



TOD SLOAN, DEPORTED FROM ENGLAND, HERE TO ACT IN PICTURES

Once Famous Jockey Is Deserted on Arrival—He's Getting Fat (112 Pounds!)

James T. Sloan, late of Kokomo, Ind., later of New York, and latest of London, England, arrived in this city to-day on the White Star liner, Adriatic. Mr. Sloan is an actor and being from Indiana, an author, of course, and he has come here to spend some of the royalty of his latest book, which is mostly about James T. Sloan. Perhaps you don't place James T. Sloan, erstwhile of Kokomo. Well, his other name is "Tod" Sloan, and he used to ride horses in the races before this country became too democratic for the sport of kings. Later he went to England, where he wore the royal colors in many a horseflesh tournament. His pockets were filled with English sovereigns, and he could call members of the English nobility by their first names without being stared to death through a monocle. Yes, indeed, Tod had his day.

Tod's return to his native land after an absence of seven years was something of a mournful event. Time was when he could no more dodge an admiring throng in these parts than a world's champion prize fighter. But today Tod was all but lost in the shuffle of passengers at the dock. He was alone. He had been deported from England under the Defense of the Realm act.

"It was a frame-up," said Sloan. "I don't care so much about being deported, but it's the principle of the thing. When I was over there in England, they don't care much for us Americans. They'd just as soon we stayed at home these days. Am I going back? Not much. I am going to stick right here. I am done with race. Too fat. I am fat and forty-four, to be exact. I am developing a paunch. Why, man alive, I weigh 112 pounds, ring-side."

Tod said he was going in for moving pictures in this country. He said he had just finished a picture in England when he was sent off bag and baggage. Tod said he had lately completed his autobiography. For a time he drove a Red Cross ambulance, but didn't get near the trenches.

COP PICKS THE WRONG MAN

Asks Deputy Commissioner for Ride In Auto and Faces Charges.

Deputy Police Commissioner Leon Godley to-day directed Inspector Myers, commanding the traffic squad, to prefer charges against a policeman whose name he does not know.

Mr. Godley, in his auto, was halted at Bedford Avenue and Bergen Street by a traffic policeman who asked him for a lift, rode with him half a mile and thanked him as he left.

The policeman evidently was hurrying to report for duty at 8:30 A. M., but Mr. Godley took his number and will try him for violating a rule of the department.

Disabled Steamer Towed to Port.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—The British steamer Oakfield, reported recently to be drifting in a disabled condition at a point about 600 miles southeast of Cape Race, Newfoundland, was towed into St. Michael's to-day by the Lady Ninian. The Oakfield, which was bound from West Hartlepool, England, for an American port, lost her propeller blade.

INFIRM FATHER JOINS 3 SONS BEDRIDDEN BY EVIL EYE OF MOTHER

War News Alone Excites Interest of Trio in Bed an Aggregate of 36 Years.

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., Dec. 3.—John Bennett, aged, gaunt, helpless, husband of the mysterious woman who was known as the "Witch of the Adirondacks," lies ill of rheumatism in his isolated home at Hope, in wooded and mountainous Hamilton County. There too, are his three sons, George, thirty-six years, who has been in bed twelve years; Ward, thirty-two, who has not risen from his pillow for fourteen years; and Wank, thirty, who has been bed-ridden for ten years.

The mother of this unfortunate trio, Mrs. Sarah Bennett, sixty-six years old, is in the State Asylum for the Insane at Utica; she was committed by Judge Wank Talbot of this place in May, 1914. While she dwelt in her lonely abode at Hope—so ill-named for her and her family—she exercised an uncanny influence over her three sons.

Whether it was mesmerism or hypnosis—whatever was her power over them—they shrank and shivered before a glance from her gloomy, deep-set eyes. She declared they were ill, that they must remain in bed, and there they stayed, year in and year out, their wills completely subservient to hers.

Their minds became weakened, their bodies atrophied from lack of exercise. They are really ill to-day, although the farmers whose homes are scattered thereabout remember them as strapping youths. Frank, the youngest, is in the worst condition, paralyzed from the waist down. His brothers have had their beds moved nearer his that they may help him a little. While their mother lived with them she kept them secluded, yet she gave them care; the Humane Society could not aid them; the authorities could not touch them. Their father earned a scanty living from the unwilling soil, but it sufficed.

Old man Bennett was himself susceptible to his wife's strange influence, but when she sought to exercise her power on him he fled and hid in the

News Oddities



BUNCH, Mrs. Jennie York's twenty-year-old bull terrier, embalmed and in a silver-mounted casket, will be buried in the family plot in Maiden, Mass.



THREE-TORD HORSES found in California, but they died a million or so years ago.



FOLLOWED BY THIEVES, Kansas man put his six \$100 bills into a stamped envelope, addressed it to himself and dropped it into a mail box as they closed in to search him.

FATHER OF FORTY-ONE CHILDREN, W. D. Davis, ninety-four years old, was married at Plymouth, N. C., to a thirty-nine-year-old widow, twenty-six of the bridegroom's children being present. It is his fourth marriage.

HORSE GOT IN HABIT OF putting feet on sidewalk to get candy and sugar from children, was excuse of man fined \$1 in Washington Heights Court.

DEMOCRACY IS ON TRIAL.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 3.—"Incompetency and inefficiency on the part of civil employees is endangering the whole fabric of our Government as well as all the precious ideals of public liberty and justice from a war standpoint," according to Charles W. Eliot, President emeritus of Harvard University, who addressed the meeting of the Civil Service Reform League here last night.

Mr. Eliot declared that it had been obvious for some time that democracy as a form of government is on trial before the civilized world.

"Can democracy be as efficient as modern autocracy in war?" he asked. "To-day no one can answer that question with confidence."

In periods of peace, Dr. Eliot said, democracy has not been as efficient in promoting the public welfare as has autocracy. "It has been made plain by the great war in Europe," he said, "that industrial, financial and civil efficiency are all necessary to military efficiency."

Out of Sorts

THAT IS, something is wrong with baby, but we can't tell just what it is. All mothers recognize the term by the lassitude, weakness, loss of appetite, inclination to sleep, heavy breathing, and lack of interest shown by baby. These are the symptoms of sickness. It may be fever, congestion, worms, croup, diphtheria, or scarlatina. Do not lose a minute. Give the child Castoria. It will start the digestive organs into operation, open the pores of the skin, carry off the foetid matter, and drive away the threatened sickness.

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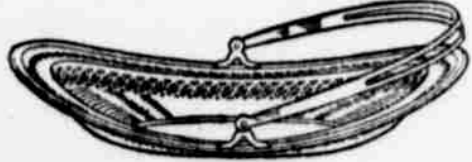
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